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ABSTRACT

On March 1, 1971, Arkansas State University publicly announced its policy on credit-by-examination through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Preceding this announcement institutional research was conducted to determine appropriate cut-off scores for awarding credit on the CLEP General Examinations and certain subject examinations. This document is a summary of CLEP credit recipients from the inception of the institution's participation in the program (March 1, 1971 December 31, 1974). Data included in the document cover: (1) number and percent of students who earned credit through CLEP (and those whose scores did not qualify them for credit) in each subject and the ability of those students as measured by CLEP and the American College Test (ACT); (2) total semester hour intervals with the number of students, the mean cumulative GPA, the mean ACT composite standard score, and the mean ACT percentile rank (ASU norms) for each interval; (3) distributions of grades earned by CLEP scaled scores and/or subtest scaled scores for awarding credit, and courses for which credit may be earned. Following the tables is an analysis of estimated monetary savings through CLEP. (Author/KE)

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SUMMARY REPORT ON ARKANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY'S PARTICIPATION IN
THE COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION
PROGRAM (CLEP) -- 1971-74

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INTRODUCTION

On March 1, 1971, Arkansas State University publicly announced its policy on credit-by-examination through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Preceding this announcement (spring and summer of 1970) institutional research was conducted to determine appropriate cut-off scores for awarding credit on the CLEP General Examinations and certain subject examinations.

This report is a summary on CLEP credit recipients from the inception of the Institution's participation in the program (March 1, 1971 through December 31, 1974). A report is prepared annually and it is dissiminated to the faculty, staff and other interested persons.

TABULATION OF DATA

The number and percent of students who earned credit through CLEP (and those whose scores did not qualify them for credit) in each subject and the ability of those students as measured by CLEP and the American College Test (ACT) are disclosed in Table I.

Total semester hour intervals (0, 1, 2, 3, ... etc.) with the number of students, the mean cumulative GPA, the mean ACT composite standard score, and the mean ACT percentile rank (ASU norms) for each interval are revealed in Table II.

Distributions of grades earned by CLEP credit recipients in courses related to credit earned through CLEP are identified in Table III.

TABLE I

ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS WHO
EARNED CREDIT BY CLEP
AT ASU -- 1971-74
(BY SUBJECT)

Courses in Which CLEP Credit Was Earned	Number	Percent	CLEP Mean Scaled Score	CLEP %ile Rank Nat. Soph. Norms	CLEP SD Nat. Soph. Norms	*Minimum CLEP Scaled Score For Awarding Credit	ACT Mean Standard Score	ACT %ile Rank (ASU Norms)
Eng. Comp. (3 hrs.)	589	30.2	480.3	44	99	428	21.2	75
Eng. Comp. (6 hrs.)	584	29.9	559.7	73	99	502	24.1	91
Eng. Comp. (No hrs.)	780	39.9	390.0	15	99		18.1	48
Totals	1953	100.0						
Phy. Sci. (3 hrs.)	799	42.0	53.4	63	10	47	26.3	81
Bio. Sci. (No hrs.)	1105	58.0	40.7	22	10		20.5	60
Totals	1904	100.0						
Phy. Sci. (3 hrs.)	1009	53.0	53.4	67	10	46	25.6	79
Phy. Sci. (No hrs.)	895	47.0	41.8	24	10		19.9	58
Totals	1904	100.0						
Basic Math. (3 hrs.)	1240	71.2	518.4	60	99	431	23.4	81
Basic Math. (No hrs.)	502	28.8	404.0	22	99		16.0	47
Totals	1742	100.0						
Fine Arts (2, 3, or 4 hrs.)	731	37.6	54.3	68	10	49	23.8	81*

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

Courses in Which CLEP Credit Was Earned	Number	Percent	CLEP Mean Scaled Score	CLEP %ile Rank Nat. Soph. Norms	CLEP SD Nat. Soph. Norms	*Minimum CLEP Scaled Score For Awarding Credit	ACT Mean Standard Score	ACT %ile Rank (ASU Norms)
Fine Arts (No hrs.)	1215	62.4	41.7	23	10		20.6	67*
Totals	1946	100.0						
Lit. (3 hrs.)	428	22.0	49.1	52	10	47	23.5	82*
Lit. (6 hrs.)	280	14.4	55.1	71	10	52	25.1	89*
Lit. (No hrs.)	1238	63.6	41.1	22	10		20.4	66*
Totals	1946	100.0						
**Hist. of West. Civ. (3 hrs.)	460	32.9	46.3	42	10	41	24.0	77
Hist. of West. Civ. (6 hrs.)	258	18.4	53.6	67	10	50	26.3	89
Hist. of West. Civ. (No hrs.)	682	38.7	39.1	15	10		18.5	50
Totals	1400	100.0						
***Hist. of West. Civ. (3 hrs.)	44	49.4	48.1	47	10	44	24.9	82
Hist. of West. Civ. (6 hrs.)	22	24.7	54.2	66	10	50	28.1	95
Hist. of West. Civ. (No hrs.)	23	25.9	41.7	24	10		23.4	73
Totals	89	100.0						
Am. Hist. to 1865 (3 hrs.)	14	32.6	62.9	89	10	58	28.0	95
Am. Hist. to 1865 (No hrs.)	29	67.4	48.5	47	10		22.2	66 ^w
Am. Hist. Since 1865 (3 hrs.)	7	17.1	59.2	81	10	55	28.6	96
Am. Hist. Since 1865 (No hrs.)	34	82.9	45.3	36	10		23.3	73

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

Courses in Which CLEP Credit Was Earned	Number	Percent	CLEP Mean Scaled Score	CLEP %ile Rank Nat. Soph. Norms	CLEP SD Nat. Soph. Norms	*Minimum CLEP Scaled Score For Awarding Credit	ACT Mean Standard Score	ACT %ile Rank (ASU Norms)
Totals	41	100.0						
Soc. Sci. I (3 hrs.)	10	34.5	50.9	52	10	47	28.2	95
Soc. Sci. I (No hrs.)	19	65.5	35.1	8	10		24.2	78
Totals	29	100.0						
Soc. Sci. II (3 hrs.)	11	42.3	50.9	51	10	40	28.0	95
Soc. Sci. II (No hrs.)	15	57.7	40.0	15	10		24.8	82
Totals	26	100.0						
Per. & Soc. Psychology	2	13.3	50.0	49	10	47	25.5	91*
Per. & Soc. Psychology (No hrs.)	13	86.7	39.7	15	10		23.1	80*
Totals	15	100.0						
Data Processing (3 hrs.)	1	33.3	48.0	47	10	46	23.0	79*
Data Processing (No hrs.)	2	66.7	35.0	3	10		21.0	69*
Totals	3	100.0						
Management (3 hrs.)	8	100.0	52.2	59	10	47	18.6	53*
Management (No hrs.)	0	00.0						
Totals	8	100.0						
Accounting (3 hrs.)	1	11.1	62.0	82	10	50	26.0	93*

TABLE I (CONTINUED)

Courses in Which CLEP Credit Was Earned	Number	Percent	CLEP Mean Scaled Score	CLEP %ile Rank Nat. Soph. Norms	CLEP SD Nat. Soph. Norms	*Minimum CLEP Scaled Score For Awarding Credit	ACT Mean Standard Score	ACT %ile Rank (ASU Norms)
Accounting (6 hrs.)	2	22.2	61.5	81	10	50	27.5	97*
Accounting (No hrs.)	6	66.7	41.0	13	10		20.2	65*
Totals	9	100.0						
Business Law (3 hrs.)	2	66.7	57.0	68	10	51	26.0	93*
Business Law (No hrs.)	1	33.3	33.0	5	10		21.0	69*
Totals	3	100.0						
Economics (3 hrs.)	1	14.3	57.0	76	10	55	25.0	89*
Economics (6 hrs.)	0	00.0						
Economics (No hrs.)	6	85.7	47.8	44	10		23.0	79*
Totals	7	100.0						
Marketing (3 hrs.)	4	66.7	61.3	86	10	48	22.2	75*
Marketing (No hrs.)	2	33.3	43.5	27	10		20.0	64*
Totals	6	100.0						
Money & Banking (3 hrs.)	1	33.3	57.0	77	10	48	24.0	84*
Money & Banking (No hrs.)	2	66.7	31.0	2	10		21.0	69*
Totals	3	100.0						

* Mean ACT composite scores; all other mean ACT scores are based on the appropriate subject (i.e. ACT English mean score for Eng. Comp. courses, ACT Mathematics for basic math, etc.)

TABLE I (CONTINUED)

** Western Civilization credit based on CLEP Gen. Examination Social Science - History.

*** Western Civilization credit based on CLEP Subject Examination Western Civilization (In Sept. of 1973 the ASU CLEP policy was changed to award western civilization credit on the basis of the subject rather than the general examination).

TABLE 11

ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS WHO EARNED CREDIT
THROUGH CLEP AT ASU--1971-74
(By Total Number of Semester Hours Earned)

Total Sem. Hrs. Earned	Number of Students Earning Hrs.	Mean Cumulative GPA	ACT Mean Composite Score	ACT Mean %ile Rank ASU Norms
30	52	3.36	27.6	97
29	2	3.20	26.0	93
28	51	3.32	26.3	94
27	9	3.28	27.8	97
26	2	3.65	28.0	98
25	105	3.12	25.9	92
24	14	3.39	26.2	94
23	2	3.00	27.5	97
22	86	2.90	24.5	87
21	42	3.41	25.8	92
20	2	2.40	21.0	69
19	80	2.95	23.9	83
18	78	3.15	24.8	88
17	7	3.27	24.6	87
16	81	2.94	23.4	81
15	102	2.90	24.1	85
14	12	2.85	22.5	77
13	73	2.74	22.4	76
12	145	2.81	23.0	79
11	13	2.83	23.0	79
10	60	2.76	21.2	70
9	203	2.78	21.8	73
8	13	2.80	20.3	66
7	40	2.68	19.5	61
6	234	2.64	20.5	57
5	13	2.61	22.2	75
4	23	2.28	18.5	55
3	315	2.49	18.6	56
2	15	2.70	19.7	62
Total and Means for CLEP Recipients 1874				
		2.82	22.4	76
Total and Means for Those Who Took CLEP But Earned No Hrs. 270				
		2.20	16.2	39

TABLE III

GRADE DISTRIBUTION IN COURSES
RELATED TO COURSE CREDIT
EARNED THROUGH CLEP

English		Biology		Physical Science		Mathematics		Fine Arts		Literature		Western Civilization		Totals									
Grades No.	%	Grades No.	%	Grades No.	%	Grades No.	%	Grades No.	%	Grades No.	%	Grades No.	%	Grades No.	%								
A	75	28	A	37	22	A	38	24	A	146	38	A	209	51	A	31	32	A	63	36	A	599	36
B	129	48	B	56	34	B	45	29	B	113	29	B	145	35	B	44	46	B	66	37	B	598	36
C	52	20	C	52	31	C	56	36	C	88	23	C	55	13	C	17	18	C	42	24	C	362	22
D	7	3	D	16	10	D	12	7	D	22	6	D	3	1	D	3	3	D	5	3	D	68	4
F	2	1	F	6	3	F	6	4	F	14	4	F	0	0	F	1	1	F	1	0	F	30	2
Total	265	100		167	100		157	100		383	100		412	100		96	100		177	100		1657	100

Disclosed in Table IV are the minimum CLEP scaled scores and/or subtest scaled scores for awarding credit. Also revealed are the courses for which credit may be earned. From among all courses listed, a maximum of thirty semester hours may be awarded to an individual by examination.

ANALYSIS OF ESTIMATED MONETARY SAVINGS THROUGH CLEP

The average number of semester hours earned by the 1874 CLEP credit recipients included in this report was 12.47. The approximate costs for producing a student semester credit hour (SSCH) are (1) \$36.36 (44.4%) which is borne by the student, (2) \$42.38 (51.7%) which is borne by the state, and (3) \$3.17 (3.9%) is paid from other sources. The foregoing figures reveal that it costs \$81.91 to produce one SSCH. State appropriations for construction are difficult to prorate per SSCH; thus, the \$81.91 per SSCH does not include the state appropriations for construction.

The following financial analysis was calculated on the foregoing information:

1. Average per student savings to the student	\$453.41
2. Average per student savings to Arkansas	\$528.48
3. Average per student savings to others	\$ 39.53
4. Total average per student savings	\$1,021.42
5. Total savings through CLEP--1971-74 (1874 CLEP recipients X \$1,021.42)	\$1,914,141.08

Of course, saving money is not the central rationale for the institution's policy of awarding credit-by-examination. However, this fact cannot and should not be overlooked in the process of evaluating the program.

SUMMARY STATISTICS

1. Number of students who took CLEP, was enrolled at ASU sometime during the period of 1971 through 1974, and earned one or more semester hours through CLEP 1874

TABLE IV

REQUIRED MINIMUM CLEP SCALED SCORES AND SUB-TEST
SCALED SCORES (WHEN APPROPRIATE) FOR
GRANTING CREDIT AT ARKANSAS
STATE UNIVERSITY

Course	Semester Hours Granted*	CLEP Exam	Sub- Test	Minimum Scaled Score	Minimum Sub-Test Scaled Score
Eng. 10003	3	Eng. Comp. (G)		428	
Eng. 10003 and 10013	6	Eng. Comp. (G)		502	
G.S. 10003	3	Nat. Sci. (G)	Biol.	424	47
G.S. 10203	3	Nat. Sci. (G)	Phys.	424	46
Math. 10103	3	Math (G)		431	
F.A. 20002 and 20502	4	Hum. (G)	F.A.	422	49
Eng. 20003	3	Hum. (G)	Lit.	422	47
Eng. 20003 and 20013	6	Hum. (G)	Lit.	422	52
Hist. 12013	3	West. Civ. (S)		44	
Hist. 12013 and 12023	6	West. Civ. (S)		50	
Hist. 21763	3	Am. Hist. (S)	Before 1865		58
Hist. 21773	3	Am. Hist. (S)	Since 1865		55
Soc. Sci. 23213	3	Am. Govt. (S)		47	
Soc. Sci. 23223	3	Intro. Soc. (S)		46	
Psy. 22513	3	Gen. Psy. (S)		47	
D.P. 34823	3	Comp. & Data Proc. (S)		46	

TABLE IV (CONTINUED)

Course	Semester Hours Granted*	CLEP Exam	Sub- Test	Minimum Scaled Score	Minimum Sub-Test Scaled Score
Mgmt. 31423	3	Intro. Bus. Mgmt.(S)		~~48~~ ⁷	
Acct. 20003 and 20013	6	Intro. Acct.(S)		50	
Gen. Bus. 41023	3	Intro. Bus. Law (S)		51	
Econ. 20313 and 20323	6	Intro. Econ.(S)		55	
Mktg. 32013	3	Intro. Mktg.(S)		48	
Econ. 30323	3	Money & Banking (S)		48	
Gen. Bus. 31013	3	Statistics (S)		49	

*A maximum of thirty (30) semester hours will be granted by examination.

2. Number of students who took CLEP, was enrolled at ASU sometime during the period of 1971 through 1974, but earned no semester hours through CLEP 270
3. Total number of students who took CLEP and was enrolled at ASU sometime during the aforementioned period 2144
4. ACT mean composite score and ASU percentile rank for students who earned credit through CLEP (Item 1 above) 22.4
76%ile
5. ACT mean composite standard score and ASU percentile rank for students who earned no credit through CLEP (Item 2 above) 16.2
39%ile
6. Mean cumulative grade point average for students who earned credit through CLEP 2.82
7. Mean cumulative grade point average for students who earned no credit through CLEP 2.20
8. Mean number of semester hours earned per student through CLEP (excludes 270 students who earned no semester hours through CLEP). 12.47
9. Approximate student, state, and miscellaneous monetary savings through CLEP at ASU--1971-74 \$1,914,141.08

CONCLUSIONS

1. The academically stronger students are electing to write the CLEP exams (ACT mean composite score of 22.4 compared to an ACT mean composite score of 17.9 for new freshmen).
2. Both indices, CLEP and ACT, adequately discriminate among the academic strengths of students (note the differences on mean CLEP and ACT scores for students who earned three, six, or no semester hours -- Table 1).
3. Students are writing the CLEP general examinations more often than they are writing the subject examinations. The University's policy of

awarding credit based upon the subject examinations related to general education courses is relatively new. Thus, it is anticipated that as students become more aware of the subject examinations opportunities larger numbers will elect to write these exams.

4. There is a reasonably high positive relationship among the variables, semester hours earned through CLEP, the mean cumulative GPA, and the mean ACT composite score (see Table II). The relationship would probably have been stronger had it not been for the fact that some of the students in this report had already successfully completed, at the time of testing, some of the courses for which CLFP credit may be earned.
5. There was a substantial difference in the mean cumulative GPA of students who earned credit through CLEP (2.82 on a 4 point scale) and those who wrote CLEP but received no credit (2.20). The CLEP credit recipients' mean cumulative GPA of 2.82 may be seen in better perspective when compared to the following university-wide mean grade point averages:

Men	2.47
Women	2.75
Freshmen	2.25
Sophomores	2.45
Juniors	2.64
Seniors	2.68

It is apparent that students who earned credit through CLEP (82 percent were freshmen) made higher grades than any of the groups of students listed above.

6. The grade distributions by subjects depicted in Table III indicate that CLEP credit recipients did extremely well in courses related to the courses which they had earned through CLEP. This appears to validate the rationale for awarding credit by examination. That is, if one has acquired a college level of education in one or more subjects, regardless of mode, then why not award credit and encourage the student to begin taking courses which are at a level commensurate with his or her educational maturation.